IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~having~~ consisting of:

(a) [[an]] the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

(b) an amino acid sequence resulting from substitution, insertion, deletion, and/or addition of one ~~or more~~ amino acid[[s]] in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the polypeptide has amidase activity.

2. (Currently Amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is derived from a microorganism belonging to genus *Arthrobacter*.

3. (Currently Amended) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 2, wherein the microorganism is *Arthrobacter sp.* KNK1101J (FERM BP-10192).

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA ~~having~~ consisting of:

(a) [[a]] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) a nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridiz[[es]]ing, under stringent conditions, ~~with~~ to a DNA having a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, the stringent conditions being washing with an aqueous solution consisting of 1.5 mM trisodium citrate, 15 mM sodium chloride and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate at 65°C, ~~and wherein the DNA encodes a polypeptide having amidase activity; and~~ or

(c) a nucleotide sequence resulting from substitution, insertion, deletion, and/or addition of one ~~or more~~ nucleotide[[s]] in [[a]] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

wherein the isolated DNA encodes a polypeptide having amidase activity.

6. (Currently Amended) A recombinant plasmid comprising the isolated DNA of claim 5 and a vector.

7. (original) The recombinant plasmid according to claim 6, wherein the vector is pUC18, pUC19, pBR322, pACYC184, pSC101, pT7Blue, or pUCNT.

8. (original) The recombinant plasmid according to claim 6, wherein the plasmid is pHA002.

9. (original) A transformant, wherein the transformant is obtained by transformation of a host microorganism with the recombinant plasmid according to claim 6.

10. (original) The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the host microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

11. (original) The transformant according to claim 9, wherein the transformant is *Escherichia coli* HB101 (pHA002) (FERM BP-10193).

12. (original) An isolated microorganism, wherein the isolated microorganism produces the polypeptide according to claim 1 and belongs to genus *Arthrobacter*.

13. (original) The isolated microorganism according to claim 12, the isolated microorganism being *Arthrobacter sp.* KNK1101J (FERM BP-10192) or a mutant thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an amidase, comprising

culturing a microorganism that is able to produce the polypeptide according to claim 1,

accumulating said polypeptide in the culture, and

collecting said polypeptide.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism is

[[the]] a transformant obtained by transformation of a host microorganism with a recombinant plasmid, the recombinant plasmid comprising a DNA and a vector, wherein the DNA of the recombinant plasmid consists of

(a) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) a nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridizing, under stringent conditions, to a DNA having a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, the stringent conditions being washing with an aqueous solution consisting of 1.5 mM trisodium citrate, 15 mM sodium chloride and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate at 65°C, or

(c) a nucleotide sequence resulting from substitution, insertion, deletion, and/or addition of one nucleotide in a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

wherein the DNA of the recombinant plasmid encodes a polypeptide having amidase activity ~~according to claim 9~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The production method according to claim 14, wherein the microorganism ~~is the microorganism according to claim 12~~ belongs to genus *Arthrobacter*.

17. (Currently Amended) A recombinant plasmid comprising the isolated DNA of claim 4 and a vector.